

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for increasing the plasma vitamin E level in a cat or dog, the method comprising the step of administering to said cat or dog, an amount of Vitamin E sufficient to increase the plasma vitamin E level.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising administering to said cat or dog, an amount of vitamin C.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising administering to said cat or dog, an amount of taurine.
4. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising administering to said cat or said dog, an amount of vitamin C and an amount of taurine.
5. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising administering to said cat or dog, an amount of a carotenoid.
6. The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the components are administered simultaneously, separately, or sequentially.
7. A dog or cat foodstuff which delivers by feeding to said animal, a concentration of ingredients sufficient to increase the antioxidant status of the animal.
8. A dog or cat foodstuff which provides a concentration of vitamin E at a level of 25IU/400kcal diet or above.
9. The dog or cat foodstuff as claimed in claim 7, which provides a concentration of vitamin C at a level of 10mg/400kcal or above.

10. The dog or cat foodstuff as claimed in claim 7, which provides a concentration of taurine at a level of 80mg/400kcal or above.

11. The dog or cat foodstuff as claimed in claim 7, which provides a concentration of vitamin C at a level of 10mg/400kcal, or above and which provides a concentration of taurine at a level of 80mg/400kcal or above.

12. The dog or cat foodstuff as claimed in claim 7, which provides a concentration of a carotenoid.

13. The dog or cat foodstuff as claimed in claim 7, for use in the prevention or treatment of low antioxidant status in a dog or cat.

14. The dog or cat foodstuff as claimed in claim 7, for use in the prevention or treatment of any disorder in a dog or cat which has a component of stress.

15. The dog or cat foodstuff as claimed in claim 14, wherein the disorder is selected from a group consisting of cancer, ageing, heart disease, atherosclerosis, arthritis, cataracts, inflammatory bowel disease, renal disease, renal failure, neurodegenerative disease and compromised immunity.

16. The dog or cat foodstuff as claimed in claim 7, for use in treating or assisting a cat or a dog in response to an immune challenge.

17. The dog or cat foodstuff as claimed in claim 16, wherein the immune challenge is vaccination.

18. The dog or cat foodstuff as claimed in claim 17, wherein the immune challenge is a vaccination selected from a group consisting of vaccinations against Feline

Panleucopenia, Feline Calicivirus, Feline Herpesvirus, Feline Rabies, Canine Distemper, Canine Parvovirus, Canine Adenovirus and Canine Rabies.

5 19. A method for preventing or treating a dog or cat suffering from a disorder which has a component of oxidative stress comprising feeding to said dog or cat a foodstuff as claimed in claim 7.

10 20. A method of maintaining, optimising or boosting an immune response to an immunological challenge in an animal comprising feeding said animal a foodstuff as claimed in claim 7.

21. A use of vitamin E, in the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention or treatment of low antioxidant status in a dog or cat.

15 22. A use of vitamin E, in the manufacture of a clinical diet for the prevention or treatment of any disorder in a dog or cat which has a component of oxidative stress.

20 23. The use of vitamin E as claimed in claim 22, for maintaining, optimising or boosting an immune response, in a cat or a dog, in response to an immunological challenge.

24. A use of vitamin E, incorporated into a foodstuff as an *in vivo* antioxidant, in a dog or cat.

25 25. A method for making a foodstuff as claimed in claim 7, the method comprising mixing together at least two ingredients of the foodstuff.

30 26. A dog or cat foodstuff comprising vitamin C at a concentration of 15mg/400kcal or above.

27. A use of vitamin C in the manufacture of a dog or cat foodstuff for the prevention or treatment of a disorder which has a component of oxidative stress.

28. The use of vitamin C as claimed in claim 27, wherein the disorder is selected from the group consisting of cancer, ageing, heart disease, atherosclerosis, arthritis, cataracts, inflammatory bowel disease, renal disease, renal failure, neurodegenerative disease and compromised immunity.

29. The use of vitamin C as claimed in claim 27, for treating or assisting in response to an immunological challenge

30. The use of vitamin C as claimed in claim 29, wherein the immunological challenge is a vaccination selected from a group consisting of vaccinations against Feline Panleucopenia, Feline Calicivirus, Feline Herpesvirus, Feline Rabies, Canine Distemper, Canine Parvovirus, Canine Adenovirus and Canine Rabies.

31. A method for prevention or treatment in a cat or a dog of a disorder which has a component of oxidative stress comprising feeding said cat or dog a foodstuff as claimed in claim 26.

32. The dog or cat foodstuff as claimed in claim 7, which comprises: alpha-tocopherol, beta-carotene, lutein and taurine.

33. The dog or cat foodstuff as claimed in claim 32 which also comprises: lycopene and/or ascorbate and/or red palm oil.

34. The dog or cat foodstuff as claimed in claim 32, wherein the components are present as follows: alpha-tocopherol from 25IU/400kcal; ascorbate from 5mg/kcal; beta-carotene from 0.01mg/400kcal; lutein from 0.05mg/400kcal; and taurine from 80mg/400kcal.

35. The dog or a cat foodstuff as claimed in claim 34, further comprising lycopene at a concentration of from 0.01mg/400kcal.

5 36. A use of one or more of lycopene, vitamin E, vitamin C, beta-carotene and taurine in the manufacture of a pet food product for treating or assisting in response to oxidative stress in a domestic dog or cat.

10 37. The use as claimed in claim 36, wherein the oxidative stress is an immunological challenge.

38. The use claimed in claim 37, wherein the immunological challenge is vaccination.

15 39. The use as claimed in claim 37, wherein the animal is healthy.

40. The use as claimed in claim 37, wherein the animal is immunosuppressed.

20 41. The use as claimed in claim 38, wherein the vaccination is selected from a group consisting of vaccinations against Feline Panleucopenia, Feline Calicivirus, Feline Herpesvirus, Feline Rabies Virus, Canine Distemper, Canine Parvovirus, Canine Adenovirus, and Canine Rabies Virus.

25 42. A method for treating or assisting a domestic dog or cat in response to oxidative stress comprising feeding to said animal a pet food product supplemented with one or more of lycopene, vitamin E, vitamin C, beta-carotene or taurine.

30 43. The method as claimed in claim 42, wherein the oxidative stress is an immunological challenge.

44. The method as claimed in claim 43, wherein the immunological challenge is vaccination.
45. The method as claimed in claim 43, wherein the animal is healthy.
- 5 46. The method as claimed in claim 43, wherein the animal is immunosuppressed.
47. The method as claimed in claim 44, wherein the vaccination is selected from a group consisting of vaccinations against Feline Panleucopenia, Feline Calicivirus, 10 Feline Herpesvirus, Feline Rabies Virus, Canine Distemper, Canine Parvovirus, Canine Adenovirus, and Canine Rabies Virus.

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